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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Before The Honorable Maxine M. Chesney, Judge

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

VS. NO. CR 18-cr-00465-MMC

UNITED MICROELECTRONICS)
CORPORATION; FUJIAN JINHUA)
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT, CO., LTD.;)
and CHEN ZHENGKUN a.k.a STEPHEN)
CHEN,)

Defendants.

San Francisco, California Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff:

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BY: SHIAO LEE JOHN HEMANN

ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

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Reported By: Marla F. Knox, RPR, CRR

Official Reporter

(APPEARANCES CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

APPEARANCES (CONTINUED): For Defendant Fijian Jinhua Integrated Circuit Co., Ltd.: MORRISON FOERSTER 425 Marke Street San Francisco, CA 94105 BY: CHRISTINE WONG ATTORNEY AT LAW

Wednesday - February 6, 2019 1 3:18 p.m. 2 PROCEEDINGS ---000---3 THE CLERK: Calling criminal Case Number 18-465, 4 5 United States of America versus United Microelectronics and Fujian Jinhua Integrated Circuit. 6 THE COURT: Counsel, do you want to step forward, 7 please, and state your appearances? 8 MS. LEE: Shiao Lee and John Hemann on behalf of the 9 United States. Good afternoon. 10 11 THE COURT: Good afternoon. I haven't seen you for a while. 12 MS. CALDWELL: Leslie Caldwell on behalf of United 13 Microelectronics. 14 MS. WONG: Kristine Wong for Fujian Jinhua Integrated 15 16 Circuit. 17 THE COURT: I have an interesting motion here. Let me just -- I do have an interesting motion here because the papers 18 19 for it are in chambers. Ms. Geiger, could I see you for a 20 moment? 21 (Whereupon: An off-the-record discussion was had.) 22 THE COURT: We can proceed while we are waiting for 23 her to bring the papers out. This is a motion for a bill of particulars. The Government has opposed the motion and has 24

essentially stated we have a long indictment; has a lot of

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facts and that is good enough under the case law.
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                                                        The
     Defendants' position is, yes, a lot of information about the
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     other Defendants, not much about my client, okay. United
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     Microelectronics did not file the motion?
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              MS. CALDWELL: We did not, Your Honor.
              THE COURT: Okay. And you didn't file a joinder in
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     it?
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              MS. CALDWELL: We did not.
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              THE COURT: All right. There is probably a really
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     good reason for that. It seemed to me that the heavy
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     players -- at least at the outset according to the indictment
     and I'm not making any factual findings -- the story as told in
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     the indictment is that three of the defendants who are
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     individuals, Mr. Chen, Mr. Wang -- does he pronounce it Wang or
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     Wonq?
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              MS. CALDWELL: Wong.
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              THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Wang and Mr. Ho were the
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     active parties in stealing the trade secrets that are alleged
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     and along the way -- oh, and then they all ended up at Ms.
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     Caldwell's client -- we can call them UMC, I quess. Is that
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     what you call them?
              MS. CALDWELL: Yes, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: UMC.
                               And then along the way came Jinhua
     and they -- is that what you call your client?
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                         We do, Your Honor.
              MS. WONG:
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THE COURT: All right. Fine. Okay. And also thank you for getting the papers, Ms. Geiger.

So they came along. There is some ambiguity for when they came along frankly, which I want to speak to Government's counsel about as pled in the indictment; and they go onto say, and furthermore, we can't tell why you think we need knew anything. Even if we were producing product with what turned out to be stolen technology, we didn't really know anything about it. You can't show we did, and we shouldn't have to guess about what the Government's thoughts are in that regard. And the government has little factual snippets along the way as to what might be the basis for why they think that Jinhua knew and possibly entered a conspiracy. Not sure why they pled conspiracy. Maybe it has something to do with sentencing.

A lot of times in the cases that the Government pleads conspiracy -- not always, but in a lot of instances they really need it in order to get jurisdiction over the case. The three cases that were cited -- three of the cases that were cited by the Defendant all by my estimable colleague, the Honorable William Alsup, involved gangs that are alleged to have been engaged in racketeering and in particular killed people.

All right. So they can't bring a, you killed somebody here in federal court, unless they did it in the Presidio or some federal officer. They need a hook, and their hook is to bring it under the racketeering statutes which are conspiracy;

and that's what they do. So here, whether they are going to be 1 able to show the conspiracy or not or whether they have 2 individuals who didn't get together but knew what they were 3 doing, another question. Mr. Chen turns out to be an officer 4 5 in both companies. All right. Now, he can't conspire with his own corporation, I don't think. Can he conspire with himself? 6 7 I don't know that he can. Let's just say, for example -argument's sake. I'm not making a finding -- Mr. Chen knew 8 when he was working as an officer at UMC that Mr. Ho, Mr. Wang, 9 10 had stolen the trade secrets from their former employer, 11 Micron; and then he found out about that as president of Jinhua; but he can't really have a conversation with himself or 12 they will commit him. So I don't know exactly where this is 13 going to fit in, but you can all be thinking about that as --14 15 you know, if any of you need it. 16 Here are some of the anomalies -- I should pull the

Here are some of the anomalies -- I should pull the indictment out because I asked Ms. Geiger to go and get it. Here is the file.

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The conspiracy that is alleged in Count One said it started in January of '16, but the papers also state factually that PRC didn't form Jinhua until February of that year. So that's a little bit -- threw me off; and I don't know, Ms. Lee, if you want to respond to that in anyway. Is that a typo or is that for real or what? I'm pretty sure it says that. I should double-check, but I put the paragraphs down on one of these

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papers that I have here, so -- I think on the bill of
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    particulars I made a note. Count One starts by saying January
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     of '16. Let's see where did I write the part about -- and
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     that's by the way when Jinhua and UMC was supposed to enter
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     into the contract to produce the DRAM, which is the -- it is an
     acronym for the technology. But yes, it's -- just one second
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     -- where is that?
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             MS. WONG: In paragraph 19 of the indictment.
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              THE COURT: Is it 19 that they got it?
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                         They have got it at February 2016 and
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             MS. WONG:
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    paragraph 6 is another place when they talk about the
     cooperation agreement in January 2016.
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              THE COURT: All right. Hang on. They say they formed
     in February. That's what I'm talking about.
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             MS. WONG:
                         Right.
              THE COURT: That didn't seem to add up. If I were the
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    Defendant, I might want to know what were you thinking in that
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     regard.
                       Your Honor, paragraph 20 states:
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             MS. LEE:
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     around January of 2016 Fujian Jinhua and UMC negotiated --
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              THE COURT: I'm sorry. You are going to have to speak
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     up particularly if you are going to look down while you are
     reading.
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              MS. LEE: Yes. So our theory is that the negotiations
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    began between Jinhua and UMC in January of 2016.
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THE COURT: Even though they weren't a company yet?

MS. LEE: Yes. I think the formal creation of Fujian Jinhua was in February, but the negotiations and communications existed prior.

THE COURT: All right. So that's the thought that before they were formally incorporated by the Government or whatever --

MS. LEE: That's correct, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: All right. Okay. The Defendant wants to know all the details that Judge Alsup said his Defendants were entitled to: When was the meeting? Who was there? Who said what? All right. Unless you have got a fly on the wall, I don't know that you are going to be able to give those details. One of Judge Alsup's concerns in the orders he made were there were a lot of defendants. There was a huge period of time; that the conspiracy in one instance was supposed to have been conducted for. The -- there were people who were dead, people who may have just been dealing drugs. People wanted to know who they were being held responsible for in terms of the overt acts that, frankly, were the real case, okay. Whereas here, the overt acts may be behaviors that are totally legitimate and not even, you know, crimes in and of themselves. cases are somewhat distinguishable. Let me just ask you, do you -- if someone said, Okay, give them the information -- who was there, when it happened and what was said -- could you do

that?

would have to be a fly on the wall to be able to have that communication -- the phone call saying, Hi, this is Jinhua; Hi, this is UMC. I would like to enter into this agreement with you; and let's be clear, you are going to get the DRAM for stealing Micron technology -- no. The time of that communication, the who, the what was said, that is impossible. That is not what is required for us to prove the charge.

THE COURT: Okay. They don't know. So to a certain extent, this motion asks the question: Is this all you have got? Okay. Then they will launch whatever defense they want to bring based on what they might argue is a paucity of circumstantial evidence. Okay.

At least at the moment, I guess, the answer is that's all we have got. Then you have the question of what exactly was stolen? Well, they were supposed to be trade secret. They don't want to spell them out in full in the public indictment, but they say that they do have more information about them; is that correct?

MS. LEE: That's correct, including the documents themselves.

THE COURT: Okay. So that the document itself is the secret in effect?

MS. LEE: Yes.

1 THE COURT: It has the secret spelled out on it, here is how you make it? 2 MS. LEE: Yes. 3 THE COURT: So you are actually going to have a chance 4 5 to see the secret, and that I assume you are not going to provide until you get a satisfactory protective order. 6 7 MS. LEE: Yes. THE COURT: Have you been discussing with both, 8 Counsel, what that might be, Mr. Hemann? 9 MR. HEMANN: Yes, Your Honor. So we have a draft 10 11 protective order that was prepared by the defense based on a protective order that we entered into in another recent case, 12 the United States entered into. It is largely acceptable. 13 the Court knows, there is a parallel civil action that has a --14 15 Right here. THE COURT: 16 MR. HEMANN: Right here -- that has a parallel civil protective order, and we are going to talk tomorrow about 17 18 making sure that there is no meaningful --19 THE COURT: Discrepancy. MR. HEMANN: -- discrepancy between the two we will 20 make sure -- we anticipate we will have a protective order to 21 22 Your Honor within several days that is acceptable to all of the 23 parties. Okay. I want to go back to counsel for 24 THE COURT:

Jinhua for a second. Ms. Wong, were there other pieces of

information that you were also asking for or were these the prime aspects, so to speak?

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MS. WONG: To start, I think while we do ask for any details that the Government has, if they have them, about how Jinhua joined the conspiracy; and it sounds like they don't have those details. At least what we would like to understand is what is the factual theory of liability for Jinhua. Your Honor, stated at the outset, you have got Stephen Chen who was the president of Jinhua and also UMC. Could they really conspire -- could be conspire with himself on behalf of these two parties? Is this the theory that the Government is operating under? And to start, if that's the theory they are operating under, does that mean Jinhua didn't join the conspiracy until towards the end of February of 2017 when Stephen Chen became employees of both? There are questions about the factual theory of the case that even with without the specific details, that the Government says they do not have, would really greatly reduce surprise; help us defend at trial.

THE COURT: Well, the Government did cite a case that said that ordinarily you are not entitled to the theory as long as you have the facts. All right. So it is as long as you have the facts part that you would have to be relying on here. And the facts that they have got in the indictment at the moment are Mr. Chen's dual role, if you will. They have that -- I think you acknowledged in your papers, that at least

arquable knowledge that Jinhua would have that UMC wasn't in a position to make this type of a product or be in a possession of that type of information at least before Mr. Wang and Mr. Ho So you have those facts. Cooperation, in and of came over. itself, I guess you would argue you could have one totally blameless party who is being used by somebody else; but the -oh, there is -- before I forget, you had a question about what acts they were relying onto tie all this to the U.S. and not just be people doing what they always do outside of the U.S. And they had the joint recruitment of workers to now produce this previously unproduced product and also the application for patents in the U.S. which is pretty big availment of one's resources here in the Northern District or in the United States, I think. But getting back to the idea of what is your theory, okay, corporations like Jinhua or UMC are pieces of There are people that are deemed as legally to be the corporation for whatever they know and do, and I don't know how many people work at Jinhua and whether the Government is assuming that Mr. Chen talked to somebody else who is high up in the organization as well or how this is all going to play out, I don't know. You are not relying on Mr. Chen talking to himself, are you, for a conspiracy?

MS. LEE: No, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: Okay. So do you have any details that you were planning on giving, Ms. Wong, during the course of

discovery as to who else may be involved even though they aren't named perhaps as defendants?

MS. LEE: Yes, Your Honor. Just as an example, though it is not in the four corners of the indictment, our discovery would show that there were employees at UMC that were dually being paid by UMC and Jinhua. Essentially that is Mr. Chen. As you can tell, he assumed dual role as vice president of UMC, president of Jinhua but also J.T. Ho. It is our understanding that during the course of the conspiracy, he was being employed or at least paid and receiving money from both Jinhua and UMC. And as the indictment alleges, J.T. Ho stole and was in possession of many Micron trade secrets. They were found on electronic devices tied to him. That is just one additional fact.

We are not relying on the fact that Mr. Chen conspired with himself. Our understanding is that the case law is that you can conspire between an employee of a company with the company itself. So Mr. Chen can engage in a conspiracy with Fujian Jinhua with UMC.

THE COURT: Say that not quite so fast again.

MS. LEE: An individual can conspire with the company for whom he works.

THE COURT: He can?

MS. LEE: They can, yes.

THE COURT: But there needs to be somebody else there.

Otherwise, you are talking to a piece of paper again, right, or not. I don't know.

MS. LEE: It is a fine distinction.

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This is worth looking into. THE COURT: There are some legal issues here that kind of overlay the factual inquiry, and I don't frankly have them sorted out. I thought a corporation can't -- yeah, well, they can't conspire with themselves but that's -- wait a minute. That doesn't work. Anyway, whatever I was thinking, now that I'm mulling it over, everybody here can find whatever authority they think allows whoever it is at one of these companies or another to be all they need or don't need for a conspiracy; but you will still get down to ultimately did somebody know something and nonetheless used it because you don't have to steal it. can just avail yourself of it. So even separate from the conspiracy, they are going to have to show some knowledge here of the theft; and that may be easier for them to do than the conspiracy charge. I don't know. It may depend on what they have much okay.

Okay. I don't think it is going to be productive to -- at least at this stage -- try to put an order in place because, frankly, it sounds like they haven't worked it out yet, okay. And that there will be discovery and considerably more than you have here. What I would like to say is if you get through with that and you can't figure out where they are coming from, then

I would say come back; and I will take a look at it either from a discovery standpoint or from a bill of particulars standpoint. I do think that at this stage that it would not be productive to make a formal order. I think you really have pretty much what they have got in the indictment itself, and you will get more. You also, frankly, will get all of the benefit to the extent it is more extensive of civil discovery. Whatever limitations there may be on discovery in criminal cases, you are going to get to depose people. You can do all kinds of things in the civil case that wouldn't necessarily be available in the civil case. I know for criminal law that may not be full consideration but just as a practical matter.

MS. WONG: Your Honor, if I may add one thing, I understand your ruling. I just want to flag one point, which is that while I understand that there is additional discovery forthcoming, it should be voluminous. What it sounds like it is described on is based on this Taiwan proceeding, and that Taiwan proceeding does not name Jinhua; included searches of UMC, offices and their employees but not Jinhua's premises or their employees. So while I appreciate and will look out for what Ms. Lee described as Mr. Ho's role in possibly being funded by both Jinhua and UMC, it strikes us that the bulk of that evidence will nonetheless still be not about Jinhua.

THE COURT: Then it will be.

MS. WONG: Right.

THE COURT: And then the answer to that is we are not pleading to anything because you can't prove your case, okay, if that's where you end up coming from. I think that we have determined that they are not really holding a lot back here at the moment, okay; but Government is pretty good at flushing things out as they go along, so we will see what they do with it as they go along.

All right. For the reasons I stated, I'm going to deny the motion. It is not -- it is something I'm denying cavalierly or haven't thought about. I think it was a thought provoking motion. I spent some time looking into and also reading some of the cases, which seem to me to be in most instances not so similar to what we have. So the motion is denied also without prejudice, so that you have that just as some security blanket, so to speak.

And then I hope that you can get this protective order idea squared away, and that everything looks good; and they can start giving you discovery and hopefully from the Government's standpoint, that you are not going to just, you know, dump a truckload of papers on them with no organization at all.

MR. HEMANN: Sure. I can talk a little bit about that, Your Honor. We have some fairly discreet sources of information, and we will provide them to the defense in a way that is clear what the source is and what the information is.

THE COURT: That will be helpful hopefully. Ms.

Caldwell, I don't want you to think in the course of this discussion and in reading these papers that the Court has formed any formal decision as to your client. It is just that in the allegations, your client and the individual Defendants were more of the focus. So that's why it may sound that way, but it is not like I'm making any finding in that regard.

MS. CALDWELL: I understand, Your Honor. I appreciate that.

THE COURT: Okay. So I don't know. Is there anything else so that while you have got me here you want to take up?

MR. HEMANN: We talked about coming back, and I think all of us agreed to see, Your Honor, in April.

THE COURT: That would be for --

MR. HEMANN: A status.

THE COURT: Status conference. Well, I think it is important that you not just sort of drop off the face of the earth. At the moment you don't have any other proceedings scheduled?

MR. HEMANN: We do not. I think the consensus is that we have got to nail down a protective order. We need to get the discovery over to the defense that is available and work through that. I think the defense needs some time to talk to their clients; decide whether they have motions to file; decide if they don't and then come back and tell the Court whether we are anticipating some motions or we want to set trial dates.

There is an issue that I have talked to Ms. Caldwell a little bit about that we may be asking the Court for some help on. There were a number of devices seized by the Taiwan government during some searches in February of 2017 in Taipei. Those documents -- those devices -- the forensic images of those devices and the devices are in the possession of the court in Taiwan, and the court in Taiwan is very concerned because of its, as we understand from the Taiwan prosecutors, its perception that on those devices might exist both Micron trade secrets and potentially UMC trade secrets. So they are concerned about giving them to us.

THE COURT: Oh, I see.

MR. HEMANN: This is a -- a new world I think for the Judge in Taiwan. And so we have been talking about with Ms. Caldwell about how we might -- if it is in our joint interest to obtain those devices. If we continue to have some struggles with the court in Taiwan, we may be asking, Your Honor, to weigh in with a request from the U.S. judicial system for those. We have been trying to go through the mutual legal assistance treaty approach, but that is obviously from the executive branch; and we might be coming back to Your Honor with that. That is the only sort of tricky issue that we see on the horizon, both in terms of discovery and in terms of scheduling and delay and in terms of sort of a calamity of issues between the two systems. We don't have an ask right now

or a prediction as to how it is going to turn out. We have asked them plenty of times for the devices.

THE COURT: You mentioned at the outset of that description of the proceedings in Taiwan how Ms. Caldwell might be able to help you in some way. What were you thinking --

MR. HEMANN: Not Ms. Caldwell in particular although she is very helpful but UMC. UMC is a participant -- is a party in the proceedings in Taiwan.

THE COURT: What are you anticipating that they would identify what is theirs and extract it in some way?

MR. HEMANN: If there is a joint request from UMC and the United States and Micron for these documents -- for these devices to be produced.

THE COURT: Well, under perhaps, though, some protection that they have collectively contained secrets that shouldn't be disclosed necessarily to other parties. I'm not sure how it is going to work.

MR. HEMANN: We are hoping. Perhaps when we get the protective order nailed down here, that would provide a little bit of impetus. Just so the Court knows, that is a tricky issue. If it doesn't get resolved soon -- certainly it is our perception -- what we know about those devices is we know by the file path listings that there are Micron documents in large numbers on these devices that were seized from UMC.

THE COURT: Okay.

What we also know is that Micron -- and 1 MR. HEMANN: 2 we believe we can prove -- that those documents that are identified by the file path are documents that contain Micron 3 trade secrets. We don't have -- because we don't have the 4 device -- we have got the file path name and Micron can say, 5 well, that is this document; but we don't have the document. 6 7 We don't have the thing. We are trying to get the thing, and it's --8 THE COURT: No, no, I got that part. 9 MR. HEMANN: And it is going to take a little bit of 10 11 time. THE COURT: I was just wondering how UMC was going to 12 help -- and you sort of explained that -- and also that if the 13 protective order here about who gets what and how it is going 14 to be distributed, it may be that you can take that model and 15 16 apply it to what is going on in Taiwan. 17 MR. HEMANN: Hopefully. 18 THE COURT: Fine. It will serve multiple purposes. If it needs tweaking, maybe you can work that out. 19 I mean, I started this case, frankly, with the civil case figuring out 20 how someone was going to get served over there. 21 22 In any event, you mentioned April. Have you discussed 23 with opposing counsel a date? Do you just want to collectively

MR. HEMANN: 17th, Your Honor. Does that work?

off the record pick one here?

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1 THE COURT: Probably okay. It's a Wednesday.

I guess, we would have to, though, if we are putting it over that far, have some exclusion of time, wouldn't we?

MR. HEMANN: We would request that the Court exclude time for effective preparation of counsel, frankly, on both sides. I think there is probably sufficient factual predicate with regard just to the devices issue that I mentioned to the Court, I know that defense counsel intends to be visiting their clients in Taiwan and China in the meantime, and that would also I think provide a basis.

THE COURT: All right. Let me just confirm.

Ms. Caldwell, given the amount of discovery that is still to be produced, the work that has to be done in more than one country, are there good grounds then to exclude time from the running of the speedy trial clock through April 17 for effective preparation of counsel?

MS. CALDWELL: We agree with that, Your Honor. I do want to make one point again. I will save this for another day. We are not prepared to acknowledge that the materials seized by the Taiwanese or interviews conducted by Taiwanese authorities are going to be admissible in this court.

THE COURT: That's fine. I have no idea how they even got them. Okay. Ms. Wong, are you in accord with the question that I asked and the answer given about excluding time?

MS. WONG: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Then I will exclude time from the running of the speedy trial clock through April 17 of this year for effective preparation of counsel. Those interests are clearly in the Defendants' best interests and independent of whatever interest the Government has as well, and those interests on behalf of the Defendant outweigh any others they may have or the public in proceeding too quickly to trial. So I will see everyone back on April 17, This will be for, I think, just status. We won't even tack anything else onto that, just status. MS. CALDWELL: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. (Proceedings concluded.) ---000---

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter. Tuesday, February 12, 2019 DATE: Marla Krox Marla F. Knox, RPR, CRR U.S. Court Reporter